

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4-6, 22, 23, 37, 38, 40, 41, and 56-68 were rejected, claims 7-21, 25-36, and 42-55 were allowed, and claims 3, 24, and 39 were objected to. By the present Response, claims 1, 3, 22, 24, 37, and 39 are amended and claims 56-58 are canceled without prejudice for possible inclusion in a continuation application. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-55 will remain pending in the present patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

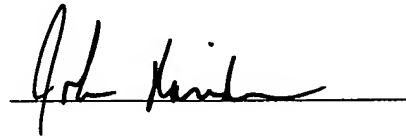
In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated the allowability of claims 3, 24, and 39 if rewritten in independent form. On March 10, 2005, the undersigned briefly discussed the allowable subject matter of claims 3, 24, and 39 with the Examiner. Based on this discussion the undersigned has amended independent claims 1, 22, and 37 to recite what is believed to be the presently allowable subject matter of claims 3, 24, and 39, respectively. If, however, the Examiner does not agree that claims 1, 22, and 37, as amended, are in condition for allowance, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the number below to discuss the amended claims.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 10, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Rariden", is written over a horizontal line.

John M. Rariden
Reg. No. 54,388
FLETCHER YODER
P.O. Box 692289
Houston, TX 77269-2289
(281) 970-4545